

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: HIROSHI SAKAMOTO ET AL
Serial No.: [NEW] Group Art Unit: (not yet assigned)
Filed: JULY 22, 2003 Examiner: (not yet assigned)
Title: POWER TRANSMISSION SYSTEM OF AN AUTOMOBILE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please enter the following amendments prior to the examination of the application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (New) In a control apparatus for an automobile having a gearbox,

comprising:

a starting clutch which provides a first torque transmitting route between an engine and an input shaft;

plural gear trains for providing a second torque transmitting route between said input shaft and an output shaft;

plural dog clutches for changing over said first and second torque transmitting routes by selectively engaging/releasing, respectively, said plural gear trains;

a second clutch provided on said plural gear trains, for further providing said first and second torque transmitting routes and for further adjusting a transmitting torque according to a pressing force; and

a rotary electric unit to enable a torque to be transmitted to said input shaft, wherein

with the automobile stopped, said plural dog clutches are in a neutral state, said starting clutch is engaged, an engine torque is transmitted to said rotary electric unit, and power generation is carried out;

with said automobile in a started mode said second clutch is controlled to transmit at least one torque of said engine or said rotary electric unit to said output shaft, a rotation synchronization being carried out between said input shaft and said output shaft thereafter, and the automobile is started by engaging said dog clutch.

7. (New) In the control apparatus according to claim 6, wherein, by controlling said engine torque, said rotation synchronization between said input shaft and said output shaft is carried out.

8. (New) In the control apparatus according to claim 7, wherein, by controlling an electronically-controlled throttle valve, said engine torque is changed.

9. (New) A gearbox for an engine, comprising:
a starting clutch provided between the engine and an input shaft;
plural gear trains provided on one of said input shaft and an output shaft;
plural dog clutches provided between said plural gear trains and one of said input shaft and said output shaft;
a second clutch provided on any one of said plural gear trains for adjusting a transmitting torque according to a pressing force; and
a rotary electric unit connected to said input shaft; wherein, during a vehicle stopping time, all torque transmitting routes of said input shaft and said output shaft are cut off and said starting clutch is engaged; and
during a vehicle starting time, at least one torque of said engine or said rotary electric unit is transmitted to said output shaft, and thereafter any one of said plural dog clutches is engaged.

10. (New) An automobile, comprising: